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AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

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DIRECTORS OF COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION SOMETIMES LIABLE FOR ITS DEBTS

The Equity Cooperative Association, Roy, Mont., an association having capital stock, became indebted to one P. E. Anderson. This association was incorporated under the laws of Montana providing for the formation of cooperative associations. A statute of the State provides in part as follows:

Every corporation, having a capital stock, except banks, trust companies, and building and loan associations, shall by March 1st of each year hereafter, file in the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the principal place of business of such corporation is situated, a report of the condition of said corporation on December 31st preceding. If the directors or trustees of any corporation shall fail to file such report, the directors of the corporation shall jointly and severally be liable for all debts and judgments of the corporation then existing, or which may thereafter be in any wise incurred until such report shall be made and filed.....

The directors of the association failed to file a report showing the condition of the association and Anderson brought suit against the association and its directors to recover the amount due him by the association. The directors of a corporation failing to file the report referred to, it will be noted, are made jointly and severally liable by the statute for all debts of the association then existing. It was because of this fact that the directors of the association were sued, as well as the association itself. In the lower court Anderson obtained a judgment against the association and each of the directors for the full amount of the debt. The directors then appealed to the Supreme Court of Montana (215 Pacific, 802). The only question raised by the appeal for decision by that court was whether the statute of the State requiring the filing of the reports referred to applied to cooperative associations. In affirming the judgment of the lower court holding the directors of the association liable for the debt involved, the court said, referring to the code of Montana:

Section 6375, providing for the organization of cooperative associations, specifically refers to them as corporations.

The same section likewise specifically refers to their capital stock. They come therefore within the general provision of section 6003.

It also said in this connection:

If the contention of counsel for the appellants is sustained, cooperative associations are the only class of corporations with capital stock not required to furnish public information as to their financial condition. No authority is cited in support of this contention. We are not impressed by the argument offered in support thereof. There is no reason why this class of corporations should enjoy any special immunity in that regard.

Of course the general rule is that members, officers or directors of a corporation or association are not liable for its debts. As is shown by this case, there are circumstances where this general rule is not applicable. In fact, a number of the States have statutory provisions which render the officers and directors of a corporation liable for its debts under certain circumstances, or which penalize them for failing to meet certain statutory requirements. Again the failure of a corporation or association to meet certain conditions prescribed by law in some instances renders the members liable for its debts. Freedom from liability by members, officers or directors of a corporation in excess of that contemplated is to be found only by "tracking the law."

L. S. Hulbert.

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TOBACCO GROWERS WIN SUITS IN COURT

The Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association, Raleigh, N. C., has recently won several suits instituted by it against its members, based on its marketing contract. In one of these cases the member proved that he had informed his minor son that he might have all the tobacco which he produced on his land. The jury found, however, that the member was liable to the association under the circumstances. In another case, a member had raised tobacco on land belonging to his wife who was a non-member, but it was held that he was liable to the association.

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MARKETING ASSOCIATION GIVEN RESTRAINING ORDER

The Circuit Court of McHenry County, Illinois, recently held that the Milk Producers' Marketing Company, of Chicago, Ill., was entitled, on giving bond for \$5,000, to a temporary restraining order against Arthur L. Bell restraining him from violating his milk marketing contract with the company.

STATISTICS REGARDING AGRICULTURAL CONSUMER COOPERATION

Of 1,009 organizations covered in the study, "Consumers' Co-operative Societies in the United States in 1920," U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bul. 313, 270 were classed as agricultural as they sold the products of their farmer members, as well as selling goods at retail to these members. The figures used for amount of business transacted, however, cover only retail sales to members. The data regarding the 270 agricultural associations have been taken from the various tables appearing in the bulletin and have been arranged so as to make the essential facts available for comparison with other data relating to the same subject.

Ninety of the 270 agricultural associations sold general merchandise and coal; 88 sold coal, 83, general merchandise; 11, farm machinery and implements; 6, groceries; 2, hardware; and 1, groceries and meat. Although the associations were located in 24 States, Kansas with 96, and Nebraska with 71, had over 60% of the total number. The next three States in the order of their numerical strength were, Minnesota, 14 associations; Oklahoma, 13; Colorado, 10.

The 270 associations reported a total membership of 63,708. Kansas led with 19,841 members; Wisconsin was second with 17,887; and Nebraska third with 10,378. The number of agricultural consumer co-operatives per 10,000 of population in 1920 was 112.1 in Kansas; 80.1 in Nebraska; 68 in Wisconsin; 31.6 in Montana; 23.8 in South Dakota; 14.6 in Colorado; and less than one in Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts and New Jersey.

The 270 associations varied in size from associations with less than 50 members to one with over 5,000 members. Over 40% of the total number reported memberships varying from 100 to 200. Ninety per cent of all the associations had less than 300 members each. The number of associations in the different membership groups, with the percentage in each group, and the accumulated percentage, are shown below:

Number of Members	:	Number of Associations	:	Per Cent of Total Assns.	:	Accumulated Per Cent
Under 100	:	93	:	34.4	:	34.4
100 and under 200	:	116	:	43.0	:	77.4
200 and under 300	:	34	:	12.6	:	90.0
300 and under 400	:	12	:	4.5	:	94.5
400 and under 500	:	5	:	1.9	:	96.4
500 and under 1,000	:	6	:	2.2	:	98.6
1,000 and under 2,000	:	2	:	.7	:	99.3
2,000 and under 5,000	:	1	:	.4	:	99.7
5,000 and over	:	1	:	.4	:	100.0
Total	:	270	:	100.0	:	

Over 90% of the agricultural associations were in places with a population of less than 2,500 and less than 10% in places with a popu-

lation between 2,500 and 25,000. One association in Wisconsin was located in a city of more than 25,000 population.

The length of time in operation of the 270 associations varied from a few months to over 25 years. Thirty-four organizations had been operating less than a year; 33, between one and two years; 34, between two and three years; 26, between three and four years; 27, between four and five years; 100, between five and ten years; and 24, over ten years. The following table shows the number of associations operating for the various lengths of time and the percentage that each group is of the total number:

Length of Time in Operation	Number of Associations	Per Cent of Total
1 month or more	278	100.0
1 year or more	244	87.8
2 years or more	211	75.9
3 years or more	177	63.7
4 years or more	151	54.3
5 years or more	124	44.6
10 years or more	24	8.6
25 years or more	5	1.8

The above percentage figures are of unusual interest when placed by the side of similar figures recently compiled regarding associations marketing dairy products, as will be noted below:

Length of Time in Operation	Associations Retailing to Members (From above)	Associations Marketing Dairy Products
	(%)	(%)
1 or more years	87.8	* 99.0
5 or more years	44.6	83.9
10 or more years	8.6	58.2
25 or more years	1.8	19.9

* Estimated.

Among the measures that can be used to determine the intensity of cooperative activity is that of the amount of business transacted per member. The one retailing association which reported from Massachusetts did a business of \$2,180 per member, and the two associations reporting for Iowa transacted business to the amount of \$1,315 per member. The smallest amount of business per member was an average of \$55 for the nine associations reporting from South Dakota. The average of all the associations reporting was \$330; the averages for the states with the most associations were: Kansas, \$493; Nebraska, \$560; Minnesota, \$555; and Oklahoma, \$520.

THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN LATVIA

In January, 1922, the little republic of Latvia, on the shores of the Baltic Sea, with an area of 24,400 square miles and a population of 1,500,000 persons, had 1,428 officially registered cooperatives. During the year the number was increased by 663 new associations, according to an article published in the newspaper Rigasche Nachrichten, dated Riga, April 28, 1923. The types and numbers of societies are as follows:

	: January	: Increase	: Total
	: 1922	: in 1922	: Jan. 1923
Consumers' cooperatives	: 532	: 31	: 563
Credit cooperatives	: 115	: 56	: 171
Agricultural societies	: 89	: 68	: 157
Dairy societies	: 18	: 215	: 233
Mutual insurance companies	: --	: 122	: 122
Cooperatives for the use of	: :	:	:
agricultural machinery	: --	: 68	: 68
Cattle control cooperatives	: --	: 72	: 72
Other cooperatives	: 674	: 31	: 705
Total	1,428	663	2,091

The consumers' cooperatives are becoming influential as regulators of retail food prices. In 1919 there were 55 of these societies formed, in 1920 there were 361, followed by 107 in 1921, and 31 in 1922. A number of societies formed have been unable to survive, some having failed on account of political differences and quarrels.

Of the new societies organized last year more than 30% were dairy societies. The abolition of the restrictions on the export of butter was well calculated to promote this industry, which in pre-war days was one of the chief lines of business of the small Latvian farmers. Interest is also shown in credit societies and in fire insurance societies.

There are ten central unions of cooperatives, all having headquarters at Riga, namely:

(1) The Agricultural Central Society of Latvia (*Latvijas Lauksaimniecības Centrālsabiedrība*), which combines 72 agricultural societies, 21 other unions of an agricultural character, and the Central Union "Konzums;"

(2) The Central Union "Konzums" (*Centrālā Savienība "Konzums"*), combines 133 cooperatives for the supply of food, 84 agricultural societies, 20 credit societies, and 13 dairies.

(3) The Latvian People's Bank (*Latvijas Tautas Banka*) combines 309 different societies, 92 for the promotion of education, 239 communal administrations of cities and rural districts.

(4) The Union of Latvian Bee-rearing Societies (*Latvijas Bīskopiības Centrālsabiedrība*) combines 83 bee-keeping societies.

(5) The Central Union of Dairy Societies (Latvijas Piensaimniecības Centrālā Savienība) combines 48 dairy societies.

(6) The Central Union of Fishing Societies (Latvijas Zvejniecības Centrālās biedrība) includes 34 societies of fishermen.

(7) The Central Union of Mutual Fire Insurance Companies (Savstarpējās Ugunsaprūcības kases Centrālā Savienība) includes 40 societies.

(8) The Union of Laborers' Societies (Strādnieku Kooperatīvu Savienība) includes 24 cooperatives for the supply of food.

(9) The Central Savings Bank of the Livonian German Relief Society combines 6 cooperative savings banks and 3 other cooperatives.

(10) The Revision Union of the Latvian German cooperatives, established at the end of 1922.

In addition to these organizations there has been established a comprehensive central organization known as the Permanent Council of Cooperative Congresses (Kooperatīvu Kongresu Padome), consisting of 7 deputies and one representative from each central union. The object of the organization is to represent the interests of the Latvian cooperatives before the public and governmental bodies, to furnish legal advice to cooperatives, and to promote the cooperative movement by means of lectures, literature and conferences.

The Central Union "Konsums" has a membership of about 300 cooperatives and owns real estate worth 31,592,973 Lettish roubles. Among other activities, it endeavors to supply its members with food-stuffs and materials of production, and to produce certain manufactured goods, as bone dust, glue, turpentine, and wood tar. Merchandise sold on local and foreign markets in 1922 was 564,185,058 Lettish roubles, and in 1921 was 349,690,472 Lettish roubles. The net profit for 1922 was 1,165,344 roubles, as compared with 85,101 roubles in 1921.

A section for the promotion of cooperatives is maintained by the Central Union. During the year 1922 this section received 2,637 requests for advice and information, as compared with 2,420 requests in 1921. Information was given by means of lectures and conferences and by correspondence, the number of written instructions sent out being 2,352, in 1922 and 1,623 in 1921. This section also attended to registration of 490 cooperatives with the district courts, or 70% of all newly registered in 1922. Model by-laws for cooperatives were drafted and the following courses of instruction were held: For managers and bookkeepers, courses of 3-1/2 months; for tractor drivers, courses of 6 weeks; and short courses for board members. A weekly periodical "Kopdarbība" (Common Work) is published by the manager of the cooperative section. Said section during 1922 received a subsidy from the Central Union amounting to 1,814,033 roubles.

STATE WHEAT BOARD AIDS QUEENSLAND GROWERS.

A record crop of wheat in 1920 in Queensland, Australia, led to the formation of an organization known as the Queensland State Wheat-Board to arrange for the delivery and marketing of wheat. As the Australian Government had guaranteed a price of 5 shillings per bushel for all wheat grown in the Commonwealth that year, supplemented by an additional guarantee of three shillings per bushel, making a guaranteed price of 8 shillings per bushel, by the Queensland Government, it was necessary for the Queensland growers to form some kind of a controlling body in order that they might avail themselves of these guarantees. Details regarding the formation and operations of the Queensland State Wheat Board are given in a letter from the Chairman of the Board, dated Toowoomba, Queensland, May 31, 1923.

The formation of the State Wheat Board was suggested by representatives of the Queensland Farmers' Union and the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce, and a conference between representatives of these organizations and certain wheat growers resulted in the enactment by the Queensland government of the Wheat Pool Act providing for a State Wheat Board empowered to receive, store, handle and sell the whole of the crop of the 1920-21 harvest. This is considered "the most effective act passed in any of the States in the interest of the growers," in whose hands the whole responsibility is placed. The board consists of five growers elected by ballot in their respective districts, and a chairman whose appointment is recommended by the growers and confirmed by the Queensland Government. Elections are for one year only.

The Wheat Pool Act became a law November 29, 1920, and the State Wheat Board began its work early in December. Among the initial difficulties encountered were questions of storage and shipping. As Queensland has no facilities for bulk handling, wheat is received from the farmers in bags. The available storage in the grain sheds throughout the wheat belt amounted to only 320,000 bushels, and, as prompt acceptance of wheat delivered by farmers was essential, the Queensland Government was persuaded by the State Wheat Board to finance the erection of sixteen more sheds, costing approximately £60,000, and furnishing storage for over 2,000,000 bushels. The Board has undisturbed tenancy of these sheds during its existence and pays a fixed rate of interest each year on the capital invested in them and a certain rate for depreciation.

For the 1920-21 season all wheat pools throughout Australia were compulsory. The following season, 1921-22, the Queensland Government took a ballot of wheatgrowers as to whether they desired the wheat pool continued, and if so, whether they wanted it for one, two or three years. Eighty-six per cent of the growers voted to continue the pool and a majority preferred the three-year term. In accordance with this ballot the Wheat Pool Act was extended to cover the seasons 1921-22, 1922-23, and 1923-24. With the exception of Western Australia the other States of the Commonwealth failed to secure a continuance of the compulsory pools. Voluntary pools were formed by growers in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, in order that they might avail themselves of the Federal guarantee of three shillings a bushel, plus 8d per bushel for handling

expenses for the 1921-22 season. As these voluntary pools were not aided by any legislation in their respective States, they were hampered considerably by growers who stood out and sold their wheat on the open market. During the 1921-22 season the Queensland Board paid a higher price to its growers than any other State in the Commonwealth.

Wheat is graded by the Queensland Board into six classifications. Sixty-two pounds per bushel is considered the mean weight and premiums ranging from 1/4d to 1d per bushel are offered for heavier grain, while grain weighing less than the mean is subject to dockage of from 1/4d to 9d per bushel.

The State Government guarantees the accounts of the Wheat Board with the Commonwealth Bank to the extent of the first advance to the growers of three shillings per bushel, plus 8d for handling expenses, and the Commonwealth Bank in turn distributes the over-draft proportionately with the association banks. The accounts of the Wheat Board are checked each day by its own audit staff and are subject to audit by the State Auditor-General's department.

Up-to-date grading machinery is provided to grade wheat for seed and this seed wheat is sold to growers at cost price.

As losses on account of hail for some years resulted in the insurance companies advancing their rates for hail insurance to an almost prohibitive figure, the Wheat Board formulated a plan and arranged with the insurance companies to insure the wheat produced in Queensland at a value of four shillings per bushel on the farm from the time of earing until harvest at a cost to the grower of 1-1/5d per bushel. Growers in New South Wales were obliged to pay for similar cover a premium rate of 16/5 per centum.

As heavy hail storms damaged the grain in Queensland the insurance companies were called upon to settle for claims amounting to about £23,000 more than the premiums paid in by the Board.

Wheat is sold direct to milling companies and other purchasers. The milling companies are invoiced twice weekly and payment is required within seven days of date of invoice. A London firm is employed to receive consignments of wheat and drafts are drawn on this firm for 80% of the value of the shipment and discounted by the banks.

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OPENING PRICES FOR APRICOTS ANNOUNCED BY ASSOCIATION

Opening prices for apricots were announced July 9 by the California Prune and Apricot Growers' Association, San Jose, Calif. The prices are: Sunsweet brand--choice, 10¢; extra choice, 11-1/2¢; fancy, 14-1/2¢; extra fancy, 16¢; fancy Moorpark, 16¢; extra fancy Moorpark, 18¢; Growers' brand--one cent less than Sunsweets for corresponding sizes; Growers' brand--standards, 7¢; slabs, 8¢. These prices include a packing charge of 1-1/2¢ a pound. The first payment to growers will be 4¢ a pound on choice or better, for both Sunsweet and Growers' brands.

FRUIT EXCHANGE HAS OPERATED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

The activities of twenty-five years are covered in the annual report of the Ontario-Cucamonga Fruit Exchange, Upland, Calif., for the 1921-22 season. During the quarter century the exchange has shipped 51,136 cars of fruit, for which it has received \$44,344,840, f. o. b., California, an average of \$867 a car or approximately \$2.17 for every box of citrus fruit shipped since organization.

Freezing weather and heavy winds combined to make the 1921-22 season a difficult one and to lower both quality and quantity of fruit, yet the output for the year amounted to 1,409 cars for which \$2,340,149 was received, an average of \$4.15 per box on all varieties shipped, the highest average ever received for a season's operations. This was in spite of the fact that only 25.2% of the navel oranges, 8.4% of the Valencias, and 41.7% of the lemons were shipped under the Sunlist brand. Expenses of operation amounted to approximately two cents per box.

The following table shows the shipments and the amounts received for same each of the twenty-five years:

Season	Number of Cars (400 boxes)	Amount Received
1897-98	436	\$ 256,832.13
1898-99	357	246,784.42
1899-1900	863-1/2	631,522.89
1900-01	1,863-1/2	954,723.19
1901-02	746	520,689.66
1902-03	1,235	668,169.11
1903-04	1,759	825,377.93
1904-05	2,144	1,157,223.77
1905-06	1,450-1/2	1,313,047.63
1906-07	2,071	1,537,990.87
1907-08	2,211	1,634,571.69
1908-09	2,878	1,759,117.51
1909-10	2,261	1,730,343.95
1910-11	3,224	2,499,289.58
1911-12	2,659	1,925,741.37
1912-13	627-1/2	643,665.77
1913-14	3,156-1/2	1,928,413.55
1914-15	2,960-1/2	1,934,217.04
1915-16	2,538-1/2	2,167,503.53
1916-17	4,057-1/2	3,509,614.55
1917-18	1,153	1,759,851.03
1918-19	3,356-1/2	4,853,927.27
1919-20	2,118	2,997,063.66
1920-21 (14 Months)	3,591	4,534,008.71
1921-22	1,409	2,340,149.58 (Estimated)
Total	51,136-1/2	\$44,344,840.39 "

The Ontario-Cucamonga Fruit Exchange is one of the district exchanges of the California Fruit Growers' Exchange, being made up of twelve associations, namely: Alta Loma Heights Citrus Association, Alta Loma; Alta Loma Hillside Groves, Alta Loma; Citrus Fruit Association, Ontario; Cucamonga Citrus Fruit Growers' Association, Cucamonga; Etiwanda Citrus Fruit Association, Etiwanda; G. A. Hanson Fruit Company, Upland; Mt. View Fruit Association, Upland; Old Baldy Citrus Association, Upland; Stewart Citrus Association, Upland; Upland Citrus Association, Upland; Upland Heights Orange Association, Upland; Upland Lemon Growers' Association, Upland.

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COMMUNITY BOOK ISSUED BY TOBACCO ASSOCIATION

Copies of a "Community Book" prepared by the social service department of the Burley Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association, are being distributed. The book has been designed for the use of secretaries of the local associations which are being formed throughout the burley producing section. On the inside cover page of the book the community local is defined as "a place where members of the association come together as friends and neighbors, to promote an active interest in the association and a spirit of cooperation, which will be a source of strength to the association and to the community." Both men and women are included in the membership of the community local.

The book has loose-leaf sections for membership roll, minutes of meetings, and for notes and clippings. There is also a section for filing the bulletins issued by the association in connection with the development of community locals. Four such bulletins have already been issued. They are entitled, "Outline of Plan for Women's Department, County and Local Units," "Directions for Organization Workers," "Duties of Officers of Community Locals," and "Outline for Discussion."

Among the subjects outlined for discussion by the locals are the following, "Burley Cooperative Marketing Association," "Tobacco Production," and "Cooperative Marketing and Community Relationships." A list of 50 to 100 questions is given in connection with each subject, also a list of bulletins which are easily obtainable. These questions will furnish suggestions for several papers or talks on the different subjects.

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NORTH DAKOTA WHEAT GROWERS TO HAVE HOUSE ORGAN

The establishment of an official organ to be known as the "Northwest Wheat Grower," is announced by the North Dakota Wheat Growers' Association, Grand Forks, N.D. The first number is to be issued September 1 and sent to the 12,000 members of the association. M. E. Bridston is the editor.

GOOD DEMAND FOR "JUST LAID" EGGS.

A comparison of the volume of business conducted during the first six months of 1922 and 1923 by the New Hampshire Cooperative Marketing Association, Inc., Manchester, N. H., gives the following:

	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>
January	\$8,945.26	\$41,426.94
February	3,392.71	30,441.96
March	10,123.44	31,494.05
April	12,460.65	30,144.18
May	20,154.98	32,084.34
June	<u>21,545.82</u>	<u>29,613.42</u>
Total	\$ 81,622.86	\$195,209.89

Of the total business conducted in June 1923, the egg business accounted for \$29,256.45, and 89-3/5% of all eggs received graded as "Just Laid." The eggs are being marketed through a chain-store system with 400 stores in the chain. The manager of the association is urging the members to try to increase the supply of eggs to meet the current demand.

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GRAPE GROWERS STUDYING POSSIBILITIES OF WATER TRANSPORTATION

A study of the possibilities of waterway service between California and the Atlantic Seaboard is being made by the California Grape Growers' Exchange, San Francisco, Calif., and it is hoped that a considerable portion of the grape crop can hereafter be moved by water. On account of the car shortage during the 1922 harvest season the operations of the exchange resulted in a net loss for the year of \$2,773.42, according to the annual report. The total income for the year was \$22,774.06, and the total expense was \$25,547.48.

The three-year contracts with the Grape Growers' Exchange expired with the 1922 crop and a campaign was begun in November to acquire renewals and new memberships, with 50,000 tons of grapes as a goal to be reached.

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RICE EXHIBIT FOR ARKANSAS STATE FAIR

A rice temple at the Arkansas State Fair is being planned by the Arkansas Rice Growers' Cooperative Association, Little Rock, Ark., and the management of the fair. The Rice Growers' Association is to furnish the rice and arrange the exhibits. A miniature rice farm is planned, also a display of all varieties of rough rice and of clean rice, an information office, a sales office where rice in packages will be sold, and a restaurant where rice will be the main and most attractive offering.

CREATING A STATE-WIDE EGG-MARKETING ASSOCIATION

Plans for the creation and operation of the Virginia Poultry Producers' Cooperative Association, Inc., Richmond, Va., on a State-wide basis, have been perfected. It is expected that the owners of 50,000 hens will have signed the marketing agreement by October 15, 1923, at which time the association will begin to function.

According to the marketing agreement the producer makes the association his exclusive agent for the purpose of handling and marketing eggs. The association is given authority to classify and grade according to size, color, appearance, and other quality characteristics, the eggs delivered to it.

In addition to deducting the cost of marketing from the returns, the association is given authority to deduct not to exceed 3% for the purpose of providing capital. It is proposed to issue to members certificates covering the deductions, these certificates to be redeemable at par in from three to ten years. Working capital for immediate use will be provided by demand notes signed by the producers. Liquidated damages of seven cents a dozen are payable in case of breach of contract.

The association has been incorporated under the Virginia cooperative law of 1922 and is authorized to handle "all agricultural products produced or delivered by its members." It is organized without capital stock and is not for profit. Control rests in seven directors, six of whom are elected from the membership and the seventh is appointed by a State officer. Each member is entitled to one vote, which may be voted in a district meeting, by mail or by proxy.

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WHEAT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION A SERVICE ORGANIZATION

The North Dakota Wheat Growers' Association, Grand Forks, N. D., is planning for the marketing of the 1923 crop and also for aiding its 12,000 members to secure help for harvesting. With the assistance of the governor of the State special railway rates of \$5 have been secured for harvest hands from the Twin Cities and other eastern points. In view of the poor crop and the poor prices the officials of the association have fixed a price of \$2.50 per day and not more than \$3.00 as the going harvest wage, and notices to this effect have been sent to all members. An appeal has also been sent out to business men to help the farmers to secure adequate help at reasonable wages.

In a further effort to help, the president of the association is calling the attention of growers to the fact that much of the rust-infested wheat, which is light and shriveled, has a high gluten content, is desirable for milling, and will bring premium prices if sold for that purpose. The president believes that millions of dollars additional may be obtained by selling this shriveled wheat to millers on the basis of its gluten value.

CALIFORNIA RICE GROWERS DEVELOPING FOREIGN MARKETS.

Forecasting with accuracy the trend of Japanese rice prices from six to eight months ahead, as well as from week to week, is given as one of the reasons for the successful marketing by the Rice Growers' Association of California of the 1922 crop of that State. The association maintains a foreign market adviser who keeps the manager and sales manager informed as to economic conditions in other parts of the world and the probable effect of these conditions upon the demand for rice. The association, through its foreign market division, is now searching for new outlets in Central and South America.

Recently a growers' service division was created in the association for the purpose of maintaining a continuous contact with growers and furnishing growers a channel through which their ideas can be passed to the management.

The association, during the year ending June 30, 1922, handled 178,496,060 pounds of rice as against 156,613,740 for the preceding year. Its commission for marketing was 5¢ per cwt., \$89,248. Expenses for the year were \$76,765, of which salaries constituted over 60%. The expenses by divisions were; Management, \$22,700; market information, \$10,450; office administration, \$17,800; warehouse and grading, \$18,900; sales, \$4,100; general and miscellaneous, \$2,700. The expenses for the year ending June 30, 1922, were \$61,672.

Ralph P. Merritt, the president and general manager, in closing his annual report, speaks with pride of the manner in which the association withstood two great crises -- the depression of 1921 and the rain of 1922. He then says, "The result of the operations of the association.....has been to lead our people to renewed courage, to greater stability and toward the accomplishment of our purpose, pointing the way toward the solutions of our national agricultural problems."

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INCREASED BUSINESS REPORTED FOR 1922.

Cream checks amounting to more than \$1,000 were received by/twenty-^{each of} nine patrons of the Fergus Falls Cooperative Creamery Association, Fergus Falls, Minn., during the year 1922, and three of these patrons received more than \$1,800. Total sales of \$313,064 for the year are shown by the annual report. Of this the sum of \$259,952, 33%, was paid to patrons, the average price for butter fat being 41.5¢ per pound. Dividends paid amounted to \$2,253 and \$22,685 was carried to surplus. The highest number of patrons at any time during the year was 570, the average being 485. Sales for the year 1921 amounted to \$293,541, of which the patrons received \$246,147, or 83.8%. The average price of butter fat for the year was 42.2¢.

This creamery carries fire insurance of \$40,000 on its building and \$6,600 on machinery and supplies, also \$15,000 tornado insurance.

GEORGIA WATERMELONS SHIPPED TO ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE MARKETS

Six hundred fifteen cars of watermelons were shipped by the Southwest Georgia Watermelon Growers' Association, Adel, Ga., during the season just closed. These melons brought net to the growers \$126,400. The average returns per car varied from \$135 for 20-pound melons, to \$443 for 32-pound melons. The number of cars of the different sizes of melons and the average net returns per car were:

129 cars	20-lb. melons	\$135
109 "	22-lb. "	151
136 "	24-lb. "	164
103 "	26-lb. "	239
80 "	28-lb. "	310
51 "	30-lb. "	339
7 "	32-lb. "	443

These cars were shipped to 169 cities in 27 States, the District of Columbia and Canada. Twenty-five cars went to destinations in Pennsylvania, 22 went to markets in Ohio, the same number to points in Massachusetts, and 16 cars to New York State cities. Three cars were wrecked in transit. A retail chain-store firm used 88 cars at different points.

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KANSAS WHEAT GROWERS SETTLING FOR 1922 POOL.

The Kansas Wheat Growers' Association, Kansas City, Mo., has closed its 1922 business and announces in the Wheat Growers' Journal of August 1, 1923, that members will receive 94.9¢ per bushel net for No. 2 wheat with a protein test of 15%. This is figured on a basis of freight rates from Sedgwick County and the average elevator handling charge of 2.3¢. At this rate members will receive for No. 2, 12% protein, 86.9¢; for No. 3, 13% protein, 87.9¢; and for No. 3, 15% protein, 92.9¢. These prices are in addition to 1.2¢ per bushel per month already received by many for storage on the farms. Checks are being distributed to growers as rapidly as possible. This is the first wheat pool conducted by this association which was organized in 1921 and has a membership of 5,000. A drive for new members was started recently and among the new contracts is one covering 600 acres of wheat.

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SALARIES OF RICE OFFICIALS FIXED FOR NEW YEAR.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Rice Growers' Cooperative Association, Stuttgart, Ark., held July 26, salaries for the ensuing association year were fixed at \$10,000 for the general manager and the sales manager and \$5,000 for the secretary-treasurer.

WHEAT COUNCIL OF UNITED STATES ORGANIZED

On June 29 a certificate of incorporation for the Wheat Council of the United States was issued by the Secretary of State of Illinois. The incorporators are: J. W. Coverdale, Alexander Legge, Dan A. Wallace, A. L. Taggart, George C. Jewett, R. M. Calkins, Harvey J. Scone, Edward W. Wentworth, Grosvenor Dawe and Sydney Anderson. On July 11 the directors adopted by-laws and elected the following officers: President, Sydney Anderson; Vice-President, Harvey J. Scone; Secretary, C. E. Chatfield; Treasurer, O. E. Bradfute.

The purpose of the Council is "to advance the interests of the producer by developing and promoting through voluntary action, the application of methods of organizing the production and marketing of wheat in the United States, in order to establish or approximate a balance between domestic production and consumption, and to bring the control of domestic prices of wheat within the United States instead of abroad; and to develop profitable outlets for such surplus as may exist."

Individuals, firms, corporations, associations, societies and industries, cooperative or private, are eligible for membership. The control of the Council is to rest in a board of fifteen directors.

An office has been opened in Room 1626, Chicago Temple Building, Chicago, Ill.

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OHIO COOPERATIVE PURCHASES OVER HALF A MILLION

The Ohio Farm Bureau Service Company, Columbus, Ohio, is a corporation created in 1923 to function as a cooperative purchasing and selling agency. According to the report of the company issued under date of July 21, 1923, its capital stock amounted to \$10,000 and its surplus to \$15,000. Its gross receipts to that date were \$40,436. Of this amount \$25,400 was reserved for a refund to farmers on fertilizer purchased. The more important purchases during the year were: 16,579 tons of fertilizer, valued at \$396,810; seed, \$25,720; twine, \$74,455; coal, \$3,647; and harness, \$1,036. The total of business handled amounted to over one-half million dollars. A grain marketing department was organized recently.

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KENTUCKY WOOL MARKETING ASSOCIATION GRADING FLEECES

Wool produced by the members of the Farmers' Union Wool Growers' Cooperative Association, Lexington, Ky., is being graded according to mill requirements by a wool classer from the trade, in order that the association may make sales direct to the mills. This association was incorporated May 17, 1923, and is now doing its first marketing.

NEW YORK FARMERS HELPING TO CREATE MINNESOTA POTATO EXCHANGE.

New York State potato men and Minnesota State officials are helping to secure the "sign-up" for the proposed Minnesota Potato Growers' Exchange, L. J. Steele, general manager, and B. J. H. Rikert, field manager, Empire State Potato Growers' Cooperative Association, Rochester, N. Y., have gone to Minnesota and are serving as captains of two of the teams of organizers working among the Minnesota potato growers.

H. J. Hughes, Director of Markets, State Department of Agriculture, St. Paul, Minn., Y. H. Hay, deputy commissioner, Minnesota State Department of Agriculture, and W. J. Corwin, Marketing Specialist, Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service, have been added to the organization staff of the committee charged with bringing into existence the State-wide exchange. Eight teams of organizers are covering the potato sections of Minnesota, county by county. The tentative program calls for two thousand contracts by September 1; contract No. 1000 was signed the first week in August.

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COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Representatives of the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Association, Raleigh, N. C., the Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association, Raleigh, N. C., and the Peanut Growers' Association, Norfolk, Va., met at Raleigh, July 18, and started a cooperative movement among cooperatives. The competition encountered by the three organizations was considered and plans were discussed for more effectively meeting this competition. Attention was also given to methods for the more efficient operation of the three associations.

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TOBACCO CONTRACTS SIGNED AT BARBECUE

Ninety-three signatures to tobacco contracts were obtained at a barbecue given by the merchants of Smiths Grove, Ky., July 28. The barbecue was in the nature of a celebration of the success which had attended the work of the committee charged with securing new contracts for the Burley and Dark Tobacco Associations. The ninety-three contracts signed on July 28 represented 227 acres of growing tobacco.

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COLORADO POTATO GROWERS CONTROL THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND ACRES

The campaign for the organization of the Colorado Potato Growers' Exchange, begun March 1, resulted in contracts for 35,000 acres by July 1, or 55% of the acreage of the State. Voluntary workers are now continuing the campaign and hope to secure 75% before the crop begins to move to market.